

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 27, 2007, claims 1-6 are amended. Claims 1-6 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added. These amendments are supported, at a minimum, by element 118 of FIG. 101.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in independent claims 1 and 3, as discussed on page 4 of the Office Action, subject to overcoming the pending informalities and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 is objected to for informalities. Applicants submit that this objection has been overcome by the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for omitting essential elements. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that no elements in the claim produce an “analytical shell-model” as set forth in the preamble. The claims have been amended to delete the term “analytical shell-model,” and to substitute the term “internal-surface model” as shown in element 118 of FIG. 1. Thus, Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome by the foregoing amendments.

Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 3 are allowable for at least the reasons stated on page 4 of the Office Action, and that dependent claims 2, and 4-6 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

The Office Action included a Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Although Applicants agree that the claims are patentable over the art, entry of the Statement into the record should not necessarily be construed as any agreement with or acquiescence by Applicants in the particular reasoning set forth in the Statement, particularly to the extent if any that the wording used in the

Statement may differ from the actual claim language and/or the otherwise proper interpretation of the claim language in view of the specification and prosecution history.

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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